

FOREST HERITAGE SCENIC BYWAY

The Forest Heritage Scenic Byway allows motorists to explore North Carolina's rich forestlands. **Begin following the**

byway from its northern end by traveling U.S. 276 North from the U.S. 64/N.C. 280 intersection near Brevard.

Established in 1861, Brevard is the Transylvania County seat and was named for Ephriam Brevard, who drafted the Mecklenburg Resolves of 1775. A pair of stone pillars built to honor Transylvania County residents who served in World War I lies at

the beginning of the byway. They also mark the entrance to the Pisgah National Forest, which was established in 1916 and encompasses more than one million acres. A U.S. Forest Service information center is located about two miles from the pillars.

West of the information center is the Pisgah Forest National Fish Hatchery, which raises trout to be released in mountain streams. **Just past the hatchery on U.S. 276 is the breathtaking 85-foot Looking Glass Falls.** A pull-off is provided for visitors to safely enjoy the view. The falls are named for the mountain above Looking Glass Rock. Its monolithic granite face gleams like a mirror from the water

seeping out of the mountain across the stone. **Travel 2.5 miles north and pass Sliding Rock Falls.**

In the summer, many visitors enjoy a cool slide down the rock into a pool under the supervision of lifeguards. A bathhouse provides a place to change clothes.

The Cradle of Forestry is on the right, three miles from Sliding Rock. It is the birthplace of scientific forestry and forestry education through the work of Dr. Carl A. Schenck in 1898. Dr. Schenck was the forest supervisor for George Vanderbilt's



N.C. Travel & Tourism

Biltmore Forest School near Brevard

100,000-acre Biltmore Forest and founded the first forestry school in the United States at Biltmore, near Asheville.

Near the Cradle of Forestry is the entrance to the Pink Beds, an upland bog with a dense growth of pink blooming rhododendrons and laurels. **About four miles from the Pink Beds, is the first of two Blue Ridge Parkway crossings.** The first crossing is at Wagon Road Gap. The gap was named for the vehicles that crossed the mountain on the trail from Brevard towards the Pigeon River Gorge and Tennessee. To the left is the Shining Rock Wilderness. Accessible only by foot trails, this primitive area is a unique natural